

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING
of the
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
and the
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 23, 2003

1. Call to Order.

The joint meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee was called to order by Conservancy Chair Jerome C. Daniel, at 7:33 p.m. on June 23, 2003 at Franklin Canyon Park, Sooky Goldman Nature Center, 2600 Franklin Canyon Drive, Beverly Hills, California.

2. Roll Call of Conservancy.

The Conservancy roll was called and the following members were present: Heather Barnett, Linda Parks, Hal Ross, Woody Smeck, Ron Schafer, Jonathan Zasloff, Elizabeth Cheadle, Vice Chair, and Jerome C. Daniel, Chair. Quorum present. The following members were absent: Steve Horn, and Jody Cook. The following member was present subsequent to roll call: Ed Begley, Jr.

3. Roll Call of Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee roll was called and the following members were present: Lorraine Slattery, Dave Brown, Michael Cacciotti, Ed Corridori, Barry Read, Linda Palmer, Anthony Portantino, Alan Kishbaugh, Thomas Seifert, Heinz Ellersieck, Marc Stirdiviant, Kenneth Warner, Timothy Wendler, Cynthia McLain-Hill, Don Robinson, Vice Chair, and George Lange, Chair. Quorum present. The following members were absent: Caroline Brown, Alyse Lazar, Lesley Devine, Jeff Jennings, Terre Hirsch, Mark Johnson, Roseann Mikos, and Nancy Stephens. The following members were present subsequent to roll call: Richard Gould and Paul Rockenstein.

Staff present: Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director; Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director; Laurie Collins, Chief Counsel; Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning; MRCA staff: Reva Feldman, Deputy Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer; Walt Young, Chief Ranger and Chief of Operations; Tim Miller, Chief of Construction; Amy Lethbridge, Deputy Executive Officer for Education, Interpretation, and

Urban Programs; Gary Lysik, Finance Director; Rhett Robb, Accounting Analyst; Juliet Chung, Government Program Analyst; Kristian Lewis, PC Support Technician; Katherine Chew, Staff Counsel; Deborah Lambe, Staff Counsel; Lisa Soghor, Chief of Premier Parks; Jan Wolterstorff, Public Outreach Coordinator and Project Analyst; Tracy Dockery, Staff Manager, and James Yeramian, Board Secretary.

Representing the Office of the Attorney General was Nedra Austin, Deputy Attorney General.

4. Introduction of Legislative Representatives and their staff.

The following Legislative Representatives were present: Laura Plotkin, George Magallanes, and Carolyn Kraft. The following Legislative Representatives were absent: Susan McEntire and Henry Lo. The following Legislative Representatives were present subsequent to roll call: Mary Sue Maurer.

5. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of April 28, 2003 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of April 28, 2003 were adopted as submitted.

6. Reports.

The Conservancy received a verbal report from the Chair.

[Mr. Gould arrived at 7:38 p.m.]

Comments were made by Ms. McClain-Hill, the Executive Director, Ms. Austin, and Mr. Smeck.

The Conservancy received a verbal report from Mr. Schafer.

The Conservancy received a verbal report from the Executive Director.

Comments were made by the Chair.

The Conservancy received a verbal report from Mr. Edelman.

Comments were made by Ms. Bullard.

The Conservancy received a verbal report by Ms. Lethbridge.

The Conservancy received a verbal report from Mr. McJimpson.

Questions were propounded by the Chair.

Comments were made by Mr. McJimpson.

The Conservancy received a verbal report from Mr. Young.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Kishbaugh.

Comments were made by Mr. Young.

[Mr. Begley arrived at 8:05 p.m.]

The Conservancy received a verbal report from Mr. Miller.

[Mr. Rockenstein arrived at 8:08 p.m.]

7. Members comments on matters not on the agenda.

Comments were made by Messrs. Cacciotti and Portantino.

Comments were made by Ms. Collins regarding the addition of an emergency item to the Conservancy Agenda pursuant to Government Code Section 11125.3.

A roll call vote was administered.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Cacciotti, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adding emergency item 26(a) to the agenda.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy added emergency item 26(a) to the agenda.

8. Comments from members of the public on items not on the agenda and public testimony on all agenda items.

The following persons addressed the Conservancy:

Michael Keston, representing Larwin Company, on item 13.
Francis Alet, representing the Malibu Canyon Community Association.
Mel Remba, representing the District 1 Citizens Oversight Committee.
Sybil Scotford, representing the Country Open Space Association, on item 13.
David Magney, representing the California Native Plant Society.

Comments were made by the Chair.

9. Consent Calendar:

- (a) Consideration of resolution approving the FY 02-03 and 03-04 budgets for the Whittier-Puente Hills Conservation Authority.**
- (b) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to Los Angeles County on the Mitigated Negative Declaration for 14333 Davenport Road, unincorporated upper Santa Clara River watershed.**
- (c) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Calabasas on Notice of Preparation for Liberty Canyon 49-unit residential subdivision, unincorporated Calabasas area.**
- (d) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles on revised Notice of Preparation for retirement community project on Studio City Golf and Tennis Club site, 4141 Whitsett Avenue, Studio City.**
- (e) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the California Department of Transportation on State Route 118/Rocky Peak Road Ramps Project, Santa Susana Pass, unincorporated Ventura County.**
- (f) Consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of 2.2 acres (APNs 2547-018-008, 009 and 010) in the Big Tujunga Wash-Verdugo Mountains wildlife corridor, Shadow Hills.**
- (g) Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant from the SMMC fund to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the acquisition of Tax Defaulted Properties including Chapter 8 agreement numbers 2210, and 2190 located in unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles within the Santa Monica Mountains, San Gabriel, and Santa Susana Mountains.**
- (h) Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority accept an offer of donation of 0.28 acres, APN 2170-002-003, Woodland Hills.**

Item 9(d) was removed from the Consent Calendar.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Gould, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution Nos. 03-81, 03-82, 03-83, 03-85, 03-86, 03-87 and 03-88.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution Nos. 03-81, 03-82, 03-83, 03-85, 03-86, 03-87 and 03-88.

9(d). Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles on revised Notice of Preparation for retirement community project on Studio City Golf and Tennis Club site, 4141 Whitsett Avenue, Studio City.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Zasloff.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Zasloff.

Comments were made by Ms. Parks.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Begley.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman, Executive Director, Ms. Cheadle, Mr. Begley, and the Chair.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Parks.

Comments were made by Mr. Zasloff.

Comments were made by the Chair and the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Kishbaugh, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-84.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 03-84

10. Consent Calendar of Coastal Items:

- (a) **Consideration of resolution (1) recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority acquire tax defaulted properties in Los Angeles County pursuant to Division 1, Part 6, Chapter 8 of the Revenue and Taxation Code that were reserved by the MRCA at the County's 2002C and 2003A Public Tax Auction and (2) recommending that the MRCA accept donations and public funding to acquire said properties.**
- (b) **Consideration of resolution authorizing Proposition 12 and Proposition 40 grants to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire properties in Chapter 8 agreement numbers 2210, 2212 and 2190 located in unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County within the Santa Monica Mountains, San Gabriel, and Santa Susana Mountains, and recommending that the MRCA accept donations and public funding to acquire said properties.**
- (c) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority accept the following offer to dedicate trail easement: Winthrop Trust / P-5-81-522 located on Saddle Peak Road, north of Piuma Road, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**
- (d) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority accept the following offers to dedicate open space easements: Kowalewsky / P-5-81-004 located on Old Chimney Road, west of Escondido Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County; Levinson / P-5-81-004 located on Old Chimney Road, west of Escondido Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County; Malibu Coast Property / P-81-7718 located in Topanga Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County; Newell and Ortloff / P-5-82-284 located on Hillside Drive, Topanga Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County, and Wright / P-5-82-098 located on Piuma Road, northwest of Carbon Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**
- (e) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority accept offers to dedicate easements from coastal development permit no. 5-82-359 in the western Santa Monica Mountains, Malibu Creek watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

- (f) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority accept an offer of donation of 2.73 acres, located near Las Flores Mesa Drive, APN 4450-028-026, Malibu.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Gould, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution Nos. 03-89, 03-90, 03-91, 03-92, and 03-93.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Smeck, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution Nos. 03-89, 03-90, 03-91, 03-92, and 03-93.

11. Presentation of properties acquired with Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Proposition 40 funds.

Comments were made by Mr. Wendler, Ms. Cheadle, and the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Corridori.

Comments were made by the Executive Director, Mr. Kishbaugh, Ms. Slattery, and Ms. Cheadle.

The Chair announced that item 24 would be heard next.

24. Consideration of resolution authorizing a nonprofit organization matching grant to the Center for Law in the Public Interest and the Natural Resources Defense Council for the Heritage Parkway between El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park and Elysian Park, Los Angeles.

Comments were made by the Executive Director and Ms. Erica Flores.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Brown.

Comments were made by Ms. Flores.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Palmer.

Comments were made by Ms. Flores.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Slattery.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Kishbaugh, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-107.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Barnett, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 03-107.

The Chair announced that item 25 would be heard next.

25. Consideration of resolution authorizing a nonprofit organization matching grant to Los Angeles Cable Television Access Corporation (LA36) for educational interpretation of the Vista Hermosa park project, Los Angeles.

Comments were made by the Executive Director and Mr. Steve Grace.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Palmer.

Comments were made by Mr. Grace.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Robinson, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-108.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Smeck, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 03-108.

12. Consideration of resolution adopting grant advance funds policy.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Seifert, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-95 as amended.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Zasloff, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 03-95 as amended.

13. Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Simi Valley on proposed condominium project Tentative Tract No. 5411, and related road expansions at the northwest corner of the 118 freeway and Kuehner Drive, Simi Valley.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Slattery.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Slattery.

Comments were made by Mr. Corridori, the Executive Director, and Messrs. Stirdivant and Wendler.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Gould.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Wendler, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-96.

Messrs. Warner, Gould, and Rockenstein were noted as abstaining.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Smeck, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 03-96.

14. Consideration of resolution adopting FY 03-04 preliminary budget of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and authorizing any grants necessary to implement such budget.

Comments were made by the Executive Director and Mr. Lysik.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Zasloff.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Zasloff.

Comments were made by the Executive Director, Mr. Lysik, and the Chair.

Question were propounded by Mr. Brown.

Comments were made by Mr. Lysik.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Brown.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Corridori, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-97.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Ross, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 03-97.

Ms. Barnett was noted as recusing herself from this item.

15. Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 40 grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Project Planning and Design services for FY 03-04.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Brown.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Seifert, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-98.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 03-98.

Comments were made by the Chair.

16. Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 40 grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in augmentation of the Eastport Grant (SMM-6112).

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by the Executive Director and Mr. Edelman.

Questions were propounded by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Robinson.

Comments were made by Ms. Collins.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Cheadle.

Comments were made the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Read, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-99.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 03-99.

- 17. Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 40 grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in augmentation of the Briar Summit Grant (SMM-902).**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Seifert, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-100.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 03-100.

- 18. Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 40 grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in augmentation of the Oakshire Grant (SMM-6107).**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Read duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-101.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 03-101.

- 19. Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority acquire approximately 28 acres (APN 2058-017-011, 016) in La Sierra Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Comments were made Mr. Corridori.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Brown.

Comments were made by Ms. Cheadle and the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange and Mr. Kishbaugh.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Kishbaugh, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-102.

Mr. Wendler was noted as voting against adoption of this item.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 03-102.

Comments were made by Mr. Smeck.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Zasloff.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

- 20. Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority acquire approximately 87 acres (APNs 4465-002-023, 027, 028, and 4465-005-044, 045) in Ramirez Canyon, and accept grants to acquire said properties, unincorporated Malibu.**

Comments were made by the Executive Director and Messrs. Smeck and Brown.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Brown, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-103.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Begley, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 03-103.

- 21. Consideration of resolution establishing a Mulholland Scenic Parkway enhancement program in conjunction with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, and recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority continue its Mulholland Security Patrol at no cost to the City of Los Angeles.**

This item was removed from the agenda.

22. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for Mulholland Scenic Parkway projects.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Read, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-105.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Smeck, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 03-105.

23. Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (a) draft an agreement with Los Angeles Unified School District to govern the development and use of the Vista Hermosa Park, located at the site of the Belmont Learning Center, (b) apply for any and all grants, awards, or other sources of funds necessary for development and operation of the Vista Hermosa Park, and (c) recommend that the MRCA acquire a property for a potential ranger residence adjacent to the Vista Hermosa Park site, Los Angeles.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Brown, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-106.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Begley, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 03-106.

26. Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 12 grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Vista Hermosa Project Planning and Design, Los Angeles.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Palmer, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-109.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Zasloff, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 03-109.

26(a). Discussion of litigation and possible instructions to staff.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange.

Comments were made by Ms. Collins.

Questions were propounded by Messrs. Rockenstein and Brown.

Comments were made by Ms. Collins and the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Slattery.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Slattery.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

- 27. Closed Session: (The Conservancy may hold a closed session on the following items pursuant to Section 11126 Subdivision (c)(7)(A), Section 11126.3(a), and Section 11126 Subdivision (e) of the Government Code. Confidential memoranda related to the following items may be considered during such closed session discussions.) Discussion and possible action regarding pending and/or potential litigation: *Parker v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority; City of Malibu v. California Coastal Commission, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy et al.; Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission.***

No closed session was held.

- 28. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.**

The Chair announced that the next meeting would be held on August 25th, 2003.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP
Executive Director

JEROME C. DANIEL
Chair